

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 6, 2005. Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, and 18-19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-14, and 16 are rejected, claims 8, 9, 15 and 17-20 are objected to, and claims 5 and 6 are allowed. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 18 have been amended, and claims 8, 15, 17, and 20 have been canceled by this amendment.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter from allowable dependent claims into independent claims, and therefore no new issues for further search and/or consideration have been introduced in this Amendment after Final Rejection.

#### **Objections**

The Examiner objected to claim 12 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant disagrees that the claim is in improper dependent form, but has canceled claim 12 to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

#### **The 102 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Phu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,278). Applicant believes that the inventions of claims 1-4 are patentable; however, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 15, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1 and are therefore similarly allowable. Applicant reserves

the right to pursue claims similar in scope to claims 1-4 prior to amendment in a continuation or other related application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Merriam, U.S. Patent 6,408,187. Applicant believes that the invention of claim 7 is patentable; however, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 7 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 8, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims similar in scope to claim 7 prior to amendment in a continuation or other related application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 10, 11, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al, U.S. Patent 5,355,531 ("Iwata"). Applicant believes that the inventions of claims 10, 11, 14, and 16 are patentable. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 17, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 11 and 16 are dependent from claim 10 and are therefore similarly allowable. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 14 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 20, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims similar in scope to claims 10, 11, 14, and 16 prior

to amendment in a continuation or other related application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

### The 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,701). Applicant believes that the inventions of claims 12 and 13 are patentable. However, to expedite prosecution as indicated above, Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 17, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claim 12 has been canceled and claim 13 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 6 are allowable and claims 8, 9, 15, and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base and intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of the allowed dependent claims into their parent claims as explained above.

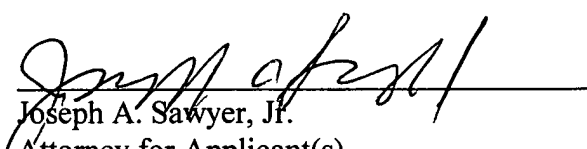
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, and 18-19 are patentable, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

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Date

  
Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 30,801

(650) 493-4540